## SENATE BILL NO. 246–SENATOR MATHEWS (BY REQUEST)

## MARCH 21, 2005

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to environmental health specialists. (BDR 54-985)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly
Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City
Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to environmental health specialists; defining the practice of environmental health; requiring persons who engage in the practice of environmental health to be registered; providing for registration of environmental health specialist trainees; authorizing the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists to employ certain persons; requiring the Chairman of the Board to be elected biennially on or before a certain date; providing for the issuance of a basic certificate of registration as an specialist environmental health under circumstances; revising the requirements for registration as an environmental health specialist; authorizing the Board to register certain persons by reciprocity; requiring an applicant for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist to pay a fee; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.



## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Chapter 625A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this act.
- 4 Sec. 2. "Basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist" means a basic certificate of registration issued by the Board pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 625A.110.
- 7 Sec. 3. "Board" means the Board of Registered 8 Environmental Health Specialists. 9 Sec. 4. "Environmental health specialist" means a person
  - Sec. 4. "Environmental health specialist" means a person who is qualified to advocate or recommend the use of sanitary measures for the public benefit by reason of education, practical training and experience determined by the Board to be satisfactory. The term does not include any person who is licensed to engage in the practice of professional engineering pursuant to chapter 625 of NRS.
- Sec. 5. "Environmental health specialist trainee" means a person who is employed in the practice of environmental health and who meets the requirements of section 8 of this act.
- Sec. 6. 1. "Practice of environmental health" means the practice of environmental health in the public or private sector and includes, without limitation, organization, management, enforcement, consultation and emergency response to prevent hazards to environmental health and safety, and the promotion and protection of the public health and the environment in the following areas:
- 26 (a) Food protection;
- 27 **(b) Housing**;

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- 28 (c) Manufactured housing;
- 29 (d) Public accommodations;
- 30 (e) Institutional environmental health;
- 31 *(f) Land use*;
- 32 (g) Community noise control;
- 33 (h) Recreational swimming areas and waters;
- 34 (i) Control of electromagnetic radiation;
- 35 (j) Management of solid, liquid and hazardous materials;
- 36 (k) Control of underground tanks;
- 37 (l) On-site septic systems;
- 38 (m) Vector control;
- 39 (n) Quality of drinking water;
- 40 (o)  $\widetilde{W}$ ater sanitation;
- 41 (p) Emergency preparedness;
- 42 (q) Bioterrorism; and



(r) Sanitation of milk and dairy products.

The term does not include practice in the field of:

- (a) Environmental health by a person whose primary work is performed for the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or for an entity whose activities are limited solely to issues relating to air quality:
- (b) Industrial hygiene, public education, indoor air quality, 9 health physics, mold assessment or mold remediation; or

(c) Professional engineering.

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Sec. 7. On or after July 1, 2005, a person shall not engage in the practice of environmental health unless he is registered with the Board as an environmental health specialist or as an environmental health specialist trainee, or holds a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist.

Sec. 8. 1. A person may be employed in the practice of environmental health as an environmental health specialist trainee if the person possesses a baccalaureate or higher degree which includes the satisfactory completion of at least 45 quarter hours, or 30 semester hours, of academic work in basic science courses, including biology, chemistry, physics, geology, sanitary engineering or environmental engineering, from an institution of higher education approved by the Board.

To engage in the practice of environmental health as an environmental health specialist trainee, a person must:

(a) Register with the Board within 90 days after the date on which he initially becomes employed as an environmental health specialist trainee; and

(b) Be employed as part of a training program in which the environmental health specialist trainee works in the practice of environmental health under the direct supervision of a person registered as an environmental health specialist.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the registration of a person as an environmental health specialist trainee expires 3 years after the date on which the person initially becomes employed in the practice of environmental health as an environmental health specialist trainee. If, upon completion of the 3-year period, the environmental health specialist trainee has met all requirements to be registered as an environmental health specialist other than passing the examination required pursuant to NRS 625A.120, the Board may, upon a showing of good cause, grant a 1-year extension of registration as an environmental health specialist trainee to the environmental health specialist trainee to pass the examination. A request for an extension of registration by an environmental health specialist trainee must be



submitted in writing and received by the Board at least 60 days before the date on which his registration as an environmental health specialist trainee expires.

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- Sec. 9. The Board may employ and fix the compensation to be paid to attorneys, investigators and other professional consultants and clerical personnel necessary to the discharge of its duties and may reimburse those employees for any actual expenses they incur while acting on behalf of the Board. Any reimbursement paid pursuant to this section is in addition to any per diem allowance or travel expenses paid to those employees pursuant to NRS 625A.050.
- Sec. 10. The provisions of this chapter do not preclude a person engaged in a field described in subsection 2 of section 6 of this act who otherwise meets the requirements for registration as an environmental health specialist from registering as an environmental health specialist.
- **Sec. 11.** NRS 625A.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.010 The purpose of registering environmental health specialists, *environmental health specialist trainees and holders of basic certificates of registration as environmental health specialists* is to protect the public health and safety and the general welfare of the people of this State. Any certificate issued pursuant to
- this chapter is a revocable privilege, and no holder of such a certificate acquires thereby any vested right.
- Sec. 12. NRS 625A.020 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires :
- 28 1. "Board" means the Board of Registered Environmental 29 Health Specialists.
- 30 2. "Environmental health specialist" means a person who:
- (a) Is qualified to advocate or recommend the use of sanitary
   measures for the public benefit by reason of education, practical
   training and experience determined by the Board to be satisfactory;
   and
- 35 (b) Has received from the Board a certificate of registration.
  - The term does not include any person who engages in the practice of professional engineering, unless he is licensed to do so pursuant to chapter 625 of NRS.], the words and terms defined in sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
  - **Sec. 13.** NRS 625A.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 42 625A.030 1. There is hereby created the Board of Registered
- 43 Environmental Health Specialists, consisting of the State Health
- 44 Officer or his designated representative and four members appointed by the Governor.



- 2. After the initial terms, each member appointed by the Governor must be appointed for a term of 3 years.
- 3. Of the members of the Board appointed by the Governor after his initial appointments:
- (a) Two must represent the general public. These members must not be:
  - (1) An environmental health specialist; or
- (2) The spouse or the parent or child, by blood, marriage or 9 adoption, of an environmental health specialist.
  - (b) Two must be environmental health specialists, one employed by the health district containing Washoe County and one employed by the health district containing Clark County.
  - 4. The Governor may, after notice and hearing, remove any member of the Board for misconduct in office, incompetency, neglect of duty or other sufficient cause.
  - 5. The Board shall elect from its members who are not employees of the State a Chairman and a Secretary. The Chairman must be elected [annually] biennially on or before July 1 [...] of each even-numbered year. The Secretary continues in office at the pleasure of the Board.
  - **Sec. 14.** NRS 625A.040 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.040 1. The Board shall hold at least one meeting annually to:
  - (a) Review and evaluate applications for registration as environmental health specialists : and environmental health specialist trainees and for basic certificates of registration as environmental health specialists.
    - (b) Conduct examinations.
    - (c) Review expenditures by the Board.
    - (d) Prepare reports.

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- (e) Transact any other business necessary to enable the Board to carry out its duties.
  - Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Secretary upon the written request of any two members of the Board or upon a written request signed by 10 environmental health specialists [...], environmental health specialist trainees or holders of basic certificates of registration as environmental health specialists, or any combination thereof.
- 3. Three members of the Board constitute a quorum to transact all business, and a majority of those present must concur on any decision.
  - Sec. 15. NRS 625A.090 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.090 The Board shall maintain a register of all:
- Applicants for *a certificate of* registration as environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist



trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist which contains:

- (a) The name, age and place of residence of the applicant;
- (b) The name and address of the employer of the applicant or address of the place of business of the applicant;
  - (c) The date of the application;

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- (d) The educational qualifications, practical training and experience of the applicant;
- (e) The date on which the Board reviewed the application [,] and the action taken;
- (f) The number of the certificate of registration, if any, issued to the applicant; and
  - (g) Such other information as the Board considers necessary.
- 2. Environmental health specialists, environmental health specialist trainees and holders of basic certificates of registration as environmental health specialists who are currently registered.
  - **Sec. 16.** NRS 625A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 625A.100 1. An applicant for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist must submit to the Board, through its Secretary:
- 23 (a) A completed application on a form prescribed and furnished 24 by the Board;
  - (b) The required fee; and
  - (c) Proof of [his] *the applicant's* educational qualifications, practical training and experience.
  - 2. The application must include the social security number of the applicant.
    - 3. The fee is not refundable.
    - **Sec. 17.** NRS 625A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 32 625A.100 1. An applicant for *a certificate of* registration as an environmental health specialist *or environmental health* 34 *specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an* 35 *environmental health specialist* shall submit to the Board, through its Secretary:
- 37 (a) A completed application on a form prescribed and furnished 38 by the Board;
  - (b) The required fee; and
- 40 (c) Proof of [his] the applicant's educational qualifications, 41 practical training and experience.
  - 2. The fee is not refundable.
  - **Sec. 18.** NRS 625A.105 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 44 625A.105 1. An applicant for the issuance of a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist *or environmental*



health specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist shall submit to the Board annually, through its Secretary, the statement prescribed by the Welfare Division of the Department of Human Resources pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.

- The Board shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:
- (a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the issuance of the certificate of registration; or
  - (b) A separate form prescribed by the Board.

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- 3. A certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee or a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist may not be issued by the Board if the applicant:
- (a) Fails to submit the statement required pursuant to subsection 1: or
- (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.
- 4. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order, the Board shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.
- **Sec. 19.** NRS 625A.110 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.110 1. To Except as otherwise provided subsection 3, to be eligible for a certificate of registration  $\Box$  as an environmental health specialist, an applicant must have:
- (a) A baccalaureate or higher degree from an faceredited college or university; institution of higher education approved by the **Board**;
- (b) A master's degree in public health from an institution of 39 higher education approved by the Board;
  - (c) Satisfactorily completed at least 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours of academic work <del>[approved by the Board in</del> environmental health and public hygiene or the physical and biological sciences, or a combination of both; and



- (e) in basic science courses, including biology, chemistry, physics, geology, sanitary engineering or environmental engineering;
- (d) Passed the written examination pursuant to NRS 625A.120; and
- (e) At least 2 years of experience approved by the Board in this field of public health.
- 2. The Board may [register] issue a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist to a person who is not qualified under subsection 1 [.] if he:
- (a) Was actively employed in this field of public health in this State on July 1, [1987;] 2005;
- (b) Is a graduate of an accredited high school [;] or holds a general educational development credential or its equivalent; and
- (c) Has had at least [4] 2 years of successful experience in [this field:
- 17 (d) Passes a written or oral examination administered by the 18 Board; and
- 19 (e) Completes all the requirements of this subsection before 20 July 1, 1991.
- 21 3. The the practice of environmental health.

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- The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit a person to whom the Board has issued a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist pursuant to this subsection from applying for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist at any time after he meets the requirements specified in subsection 1 for the issuance of a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist.
- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 to the contrary, upon written application, the Board may register [, upon written application,] by reciprocity any person [who:
- (a) Was employed in this field of public health in this State on
   July 1, 1987, and was a registered sanitarian in this State before
   July 1, 1977; or
- 35 (b) Is registered] as an environmental health specialist if the 36 person is registered as:
- 37 (a) An environmental health specialist with the National 38 Environmental Health Association [and is a resident of this State.;] 39 or
  - (b) An environmental health specialist, environmental health scientist or registered sanitarian in another jurisdiction recognized by the Board as having requirements for that registration that are substantially similar to the requirements for registration as an environmental health specialist in this State.



**Sec. 20.** NRS 625A.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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- 625A.120 1. Except for an applicant applying pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 of NRS 625A.110, an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration  $\mathbf{H}$  as an environmental health specialist, has paid the fee and presented the required credentials must appear personally and pass the written examination certified by the National Environmental Health Association or an equivalent examination prepared by the Board.
- [If the application is filed pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 625A.110, the Board may use the written examination certified by the National Environmental Health Association or a written or oral examination prepared by the Board.
- 3.1 The examination must be administered by the Board not less than once each year at such time and place in this State as the Board specifies.
- <del>[4.]</del> 3. The name of the applicant must not appear on the examination, and the applicant must be identified by a number assigned to him by the Secretary of the Board.
- [5.] 4. All examinations and the records pertaining to them 20 must be filed with the Secretary of the Board and retained for at least 5 years.
  - [6.] 5. If an applicant fails the examination, he may be reexamined upon resubmission of his application accompanied by the required fee.
  - Sec. 21. NRS 625A.130 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.130 1. Each applicant for *a certificate of* registration as an environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist must pay a fee set by the Board not to exceed \$250.
  - 2. Each applicant for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist who fails an examination and who desires to be reexamined must pay a fee set by the Board not to exceed \$200 for each reexamination.
  - Each *person* registered *as an* environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee and each person who holds a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health *specialist* must pay to the Secretary of the Board on or before the date fixed by the Board an annual fee for registration to be set by the Board not to exceed \$100. The annual fee for registration must be collected for the year in which an environmental health specialist is initially registered.
  - The certificate of any *person registered as an* environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee, or who holds a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health



specialist, who fails to submit the statement required pursuant to NRS 625A.105 or pay the annual fee for registration within 60 days after it is due is automatically suspended. The Board must notify the [environmental health specialist] person that his certificate of registration or basic certificate of registration has been suspended pursuant to this subsection. It may be reinstated pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board.

Sec. 22. NRS 625A.130 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.130 1. Each applicant for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist [shall] or environmental health specialist trainee or for a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist must pay a fee set by the Board not

13 to exceed \$250.

- 2. Each applicant *for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist* who fails an examination and who desires to be reexamined [shall] *must* pay a fee set by the Board not to exceed \$200 for each reexamination.
- 3. Each *person* registered *as an* environmental health specialist *[shall]* or environmental health specialist trainee, and each person who holds a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist, must pay to the Secretary of the Board on or before the date fixed by the Board an annual fee for registration to be set by the Board not to exceed \$100. The annual fee for registration must be collected for the year in which *[an environmental health specialist]* the person is initially registered.
- 4. The certificate of any *person registered as an* environmental health specialist *or environmental health specialist trainee, or who holds a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist*, who fails to pay the annual fee for registration within 60 days after it is due is automatically suspended. The Board must notify the [environmental health specialist] *person* that his [certificate] *registration* has been suspended for nonpayment of the annual fee. It may be reinstated pursuant to regulations adopted by the Board.

**Sec. 23.** NRS 625A.140 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.140 Each certificate issued by the Board must be numbered and contain [the:

38 — 1. Designation]:

- *1. The designation* "Registered Environmental Health 40 [Specialist."
- - 2. The name of the person registered.
    - 3. [Date] The registration number.
    - 4. The date of issuance.



- [4.] 5. A citation to the specific provision of this chapter 2 under which the person is registered. 3
  - *The Great* Seal of the Board.
  - 5. Signatures | State of Nevada.

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- The signatures of the [members] Chairman and Secretary of the Board.
  - **Sec. 24.** NRS 625A.150 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.150 1. The Board shall adopt regulations requiring participation in a program of continuing education as a prerequisite for the renewal of a certificate of registration  $\square$  as an environmental health specialist.
  - The Board may exempt an environmental health specialist from the requirements for continuing education if he is able to show good cause why the requirements could not be met. The exemption may not be granted to a person more than once in any 2-year period.
  - **Sec. 25.** NRS 625A.160 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.160 The grounds for initiating disciplinary action under this chapter are:
    - Unprofessional conduct: 1.
  - Conviction of a felony relating to the practice of [an] environmental health [specialist] or any offense involving moral turpitude;
- The suspension or revocation of a certificate or license as an 24 environmental health specialist by any other jurisdiction; or
  - Failure to meet the requirements for continuing education.
- **Sec. 26.** NRS 625A.165 is hereby amended to read as follows: 26
  - 625A.165 1. If the Board receives a copy of a court order issued pursuant to NRS 425.540 that provides for the suspension of all professional, occupational and recreational licenses, certificates and permits issued to a person who is the holder of a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist environmental health specialist trainee, or a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist, the Board shall deem the certificate of registration or basic certificate **registration** issued to that person to be suspended at the end of the 30th day after the date on which the court order was issued unless the Board receives a letter issued to the holder of the certificate of registration or basic certificate of registration by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 stating that the holder of the certificate of registration or basic certificate of *registration* has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560.
  - The Board shall reinstate a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist or environmental health specialist trainee or a basic certificate of registration as an environmental



health specialist that has been suspended by a district court pursuant to NRS 425.540 if the Board receives a letter issued by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 to the person whose certificate of registration or basic certificate of registration was suspended stating that the person whose certificate of registration or basic certificate of registration was suspended has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560.

**Sec. 27.** NRS 625A.180 is hereby amended to read as follows: 625A.180 1. If the Board finds after a hearing, or after providing an opportunity for a hearing, that disciplinary action is necessary, it may by order:

- (a) Place the environmental health specialist, environmental health specialist trainee or holder of a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist on probation for a specified period or until further order of the Board;
  - (b) Administer a public reprimand; or
  - (c) Suspend or revoke his certificate.

- 2. If the order places an environmental health specialist, environmental health specialist trainee or holder of a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist on probation, the Board may impose such limitations or conditions upon his professional activities as [it] the Board finds consistent to protect the public health.
  - 3. The Board shall not administer a private reprimand.
- 4. An order that imposes discipline and the findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting that order are public records.

Sec. 28. NRS 625A.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 625A.200 1. Only a person who holds a valid certificate of registration or basic certificate of registration issued by the Board may use the title "registered environmental health [specialist" or] specialist," "environmental health [specialist"] specialist," "registered sanitarian" or "sanitarian," or the abbreviation ["R.E.H.S." or] "R.E.H.S.," "E.H.S." or "R.S." after his name.
- 2. Only a person who is registered with the Board as an environmental health specialist trainee may use the title "environmental health specialist trainee."
- **3.** Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- **Sec. 29.** 1. Every person in this State who, on July 1, 2005, holds a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist shall be deemed to have been issued a temporary registration as an environmental health specialist.
- 44 2. A temporary registration specified in subsection 1 expires 45 on:



- (a) July 1, 2006, if the person has not applied for and received a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist or a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist by that date; or
- (b) The date the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists grants or denies the person's application for a certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist or a basic certificate of registration as an environmental health specialist,
- → whichever occurs first.

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- **Sec. 30.** 1. This section and sections 1 to 16, inclusive, 18 to 21, inclusive, and 23 to 29, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2005.
- 2. Sections 16, 18, 21 and 26 of this act expire by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
- (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children,
- → are repealed by the Congress of the United States.
- 3. Sections 17 and 22 of this act become effective on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
- (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- 32 (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children.
  - → are repealed by the Congress of the United States.



